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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL
USES OF OUTER SPACE
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Thirty-fourth session
Vienna, 17-28 February 1997*

PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. Adoption of the agenda.

2. Statement by the Chairman.

3. General exchange of views.

4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system.

5. Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

6. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites including, *inter alia*, applications for developing countries.

7. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

8. Space debris.

9. Questions relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space.

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*The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its thirty-eighth session, agreed that the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies should be considered with a view to concluding the sessions of those bodies as early as practicable without prejudice to their giving full consideration to the items on their agendas (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/50/20), para. 168).

**Items 4 to 8 should be given priority in accordance with paragraph 18 of General Assembly resolution 51/123 of 13 December 1996.

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10. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit; examination of its utilization and applications, including, *inter alia*, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to space communications developments, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries.

11. Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine.

12. Progress in national and international space activities related to the Earth environment, in particular progress in the international geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme.

13. Matters relating to planetary exploration.

14. Matters relating to astronomy.

15. The theme fixed for special attention at the 1997 session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee: "Space systems for direct broadcasting and global information systems for space research".

16. Other matters:

    (a) Advisory Committee for the preparations for a special session of the Committee, open to all Member States of the United Nations (UNISPACE III);

    (b) Other reports.

17. Report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

ANNOTATIONS

Items 1, 2 and 3. Adoption of the agenda

Statement by the Chairman

General exchange of views

1. Following the adoption of the agenda by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, the Chairman will make a statement reviewing developments of relevance to the work of the Subcommittee which have taken place since its thirty-third session. After the Chairman's statement, the Subcommittee will organize a schedule of work (the indicative schedule of work, which will be followed with flexibility, is contained in the annex to the present provisional agenda).

2. The general exchange of views will start during the morning meeting.

Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system

3. The General Assembly, in paragraph 18 of its resolution 51/123, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item on a priority basis.

(a) Report of the Expert on Space Applications

4. The views of the Subcommittee regarding the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for the period 1995-1997 are set out in paragraphs 26 to 36 of the report on the work of its thirty-third

session (A/AC.105/637 and Corr.1). The views of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the report of the Subcommittee on this item are reflected in paragraphs 37 to 58 of the report of the Committee.[1] The General Assembly, in paragraph 23 of its resolution 51/123, endorsed the Programme for 1997, proposed to the Committee by the Expert on Space Applications (A/AC.105/625, sections I and IV).

5. The Subcommittee will have before it the report of the Expert covering the implementation of the Programme on Space Applications during 1996 and 1997, as well as the activities proposed for 1998 (A/AC.105/660). The report will also cover arrangements made by the Secretariat with other organs, bodies and organizations of the United Nations system to use available resources and secure additional financial support for the Programme, as requested in paragraph 19 (c) of the report of the Working Group of the Whole to Evaluate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the work of its sixth session (A/AC.105/513, annex II). The report of the Expert will also provide the Subcommittee with an update on the regional centres for space science and technology education. The Subcommittee will also have before it a document entitled "Centres for space science and technology education: education curricula" (A/AC.105/649).

6. In addition, the Subcommittee will have before it reports on the following training courses, conferences and workshops held in 1996: report of the United Nations/United States of America International Conference on Spin-off Benefits of Space Technology: Challenges and Opportunities, held at Colorado Springs, Colorado, United States, from 9 to 12 April 1996 (A/AC.105/642); report of the Sixth United Nations/Sweden International Training Course on Remote Sensing Education for Educators, held at Stockholm and Kiruna, Sweden, from 6 May to 15 June 1996 (A/AC.105/643); report of the United Nations/European Space Agency Workshop on Microwave Remote Sensing Applications, held at Manila from 22 to 26 April 1996 (A/AC.105/644); report of the United Nations/Instituto Nacional de Técnica Aeroespacial/European Space Agency International Conference on Small Satellites: Mission and Technology, held at Madrid from 9 to 13 September 1996 (A/AC.105/645); report of the United Nations/European Space Agency/European Commission Symposium on Space Technology Applications for the benefit of Developing Countries, held at Graz, Austria, from 9 to 12 September 1996 (A/AC.105/646); *Seminars of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications: Selected Papers on Remote Sensing, Satellite Communications and Space Science, 1997* (A/AC.105/650); report of the United Nations/European Space Agency/Chile Workshop on Space Technology to Prevent and Mitigate the Effects of Disasters, held at Santiago from 1 to 5 July 1996 (A/AC.105/655); report of the United Nations/International Astronautical Federation Workshop on Education and Awareness: Space Technology and Applications in the Developing World, held at Beijing from 3 to 6 October 1996 (A/AC.105/656); report of the Sixth United Nations/European Space Agency Workshop on Basic Space Science: Ground-based and Space-borne Astronomy, held at Bonn from 9 to 13 September 1996 (A/AC.105/657); and report of the Second United Nations Regional Conference on Space Technology for Sustainable Development in Africa, held at Pretoria, South Africa, from 4 to 8 November 1996 (A/AC.105/658).

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on coordination of space activities within the United Nations system

7. The eighteenth Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities will be held at Vienna from 28 to 30 May 1997. The report of that Meeting, as well as the report on coordination to be contained in the document entitled "Coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system: programmes of work for 1997 and 1998 and future years", will be issued in due course.

Item 5. Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

8. The General Assembly, in paragraph 18 of its resolution 51/123, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item on a priority basis.

9. The views of the Subcommittee regarding the item were provided in paragraphs 21 to 59 of its report (A/AC.105/637 and Corr.1). The views of the Committee on the report of the Subcommittee on the item are contained in paragraphs 32 to 66 of the report of the Committee.[1]

10. Attention is also drawn to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/51/276).

11. The General Assembly, in paragraph 21 of its resolution 51/123, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Working Group of the Whole should be reconvened by the Subcommittee at its thirty-fourth session.

12. The General Assembly, in paragraph 20 of its resolution 51/123, also endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole as endorsed by the Committee and as contained in the report of the Working Group of the Whole (A/AC.105/637 and Corr.1, annex II). In response to requests by the Working Group of the Whole, the Subcommittee will have before it a document (A/AC.105/661) containing information submitted by Member States on national and international space activities and a number of reports from international organizations. The document will also include information on space activities that were or could be the subject of greater international cooperation and on the resources and technological capabilities of States in space activities. The Subcommittee will also have before it the following technical studies: "Basic space science in developing countries" (A/AC.105/664); "Use of new technologies in communications and information networks" (A/AC.105/665); "Space applications for sustainable development" (A/AC.105/666); and "Developing tele-education programmes through international cooperation" (A/AC.105/667).

13. In considering agenda item 5, the Subcommittee should note that the General Assembly, in its resolution 51/123, considered the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraph 19 of that resolution to be particularly urgent. With reference to the recommendation contained in paragraph 19 (d) of the resolution, the Subcommittee will have before it a document entitled "Education, training, research and fellowship opportunities in space science and technology and its applications: a directory" (A/AC.105/671).

Item 6. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites including, *inter alia*, applications for developing countries

14. The General Assembly, in paragraph 18 of its resolution 51/123, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item on a priority basis.

Item 7. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space

15. The General Assembly, in paragraph 18 of its resolution 51/123, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item on a priority basis.

16. In response to the invitation contained in paragraph 22 of General Assembly resolution 51/123, the Subcommittee will have before it contributions from Member States regarding national and international research concerning the safety of nuclear-powered satellites.

Item 8. Space debris

17. The General Assembly, in paragraph 18 of its resolution 51/123, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item on a priority basis.

18. The General Assembly, in paragraph 32 of the same resolution, considered that it was essential that Member States pay more attention to the problem of collisions of space objects, including nuclear power sources, with space debris, and other aspects of space debris, and called for, among other things, the continuation of national research on that question. In this connection, the Subcommittee will have before it document (A/AC.105/659) containing the contributions received by the Secretariat from Member States. Any additional contributions received by the Secretariat after the preparation of the present annotated provisional agenda will be brought to the attention of the Subcommittee.

19. The General Assembly, in paragraph 17 of the same resolution, agreed with the Committee that the multi-year work plan on space debris should continue to be implemented with flexibility. Attention is drawn to the text of the work plan (A/AC.105/605, para. 83), which indicates that, at its current session, the Subcommittee should concentrate on the modelling of space debris environment and risk assessment and that it should also review current operational debris mitigation practices and consider future mitigation methods with regard to cost-efficiency.

20. The Subcommittee will have before it a report prepared by the Secretariat on various steps taken by space agencies to reduce the growth or damage potential of space debris (A/AC.105/663).

Item 9. Questions relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space

21. The General Assembly, in paragraph 18 of its resolution 51/123, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item at its current session.

Item 10. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit; examination of its utilization and applications, including, *inter alia*, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to space communications developments, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries

22. The General Assembly, in paragraph 18 of its resolution 51/123, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item at its current session.

Item 11. Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine

23. The General Assembly, in paragraph 18 of its resolution 51/123, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item at its current session.

Item 12. Progress in national and international space activities related to the Earth environment, in particular progress in the international geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme

24. The General Assembly, in paragraph 18 of its resolution 51/123, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item at its current session.

Item 13. Matters relating to planetary exploration

25. The General Assembly, in paragraph 18 of its resolution 51/123, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item at its current session.

Item 14. Matters relating to astronomy

26. The General Assembly, in paragraph 18 of its resolution 51/123, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item at its current session.

Item 15. The theme fixed for special attention at the 1997 session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee: "Space systems for direct broadcasting and global information systems for space research"

27. The General Assembly, in paragraph 18 of its resolution 51/123, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the theme fixed for the special attention of the Subcommittee at its current session should be "Space systems for direct broadcasting and global information systems for space research".

28. In accordance with the same resolution, the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) and the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), in liaison with Member States, have been invited to arrange a symposium on this theme, with as wide a participation as possible, to be held during the first week of the session of the Subcommittee, at the end of its meetings, in order to complement its discussions (see note *a* in the annex to the present annotated provisional agenda). A detailed programme of the symposium will be issued in due course.

Item 16. Other matters

***(a)* Advisory Committee for the preparations for a special session of the Committee, open to all Member States of the United Nations (UNISPACE III)**

29. The General Assembly, in paragraph 28 of its resolution 51/123, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that a special session of the Committee, open to all Member States of the United Nations (UNISPACE III), should be convened at the United Nations Office at Vienna, preferably in 1999 unless progress towards agreeing on an agenda at the thirty-fourth session of the Subcommittee made it more appropriate to consider the year 2000.

30. The General Assembly, in paragraph 29 of its resolution 51/123, requested the Subcommittee to act as the Advisory Committee, and the Office for Outer Space Affairs to act as the executive secretariat for UNISPACE III.

31. The General Assembly, in paragraph 29 of its resolution 51/123, also requested the Subcommittee, in its role as the Advisory Committee, to carry out the tasks entrusted to it in paragraphs 178 to 185 of the report of the Committee.[1]

32. The Subcommittee will have before it a document entitled matters relating to the planning of the special session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) (A/AC.105/662), prepared by the Secretariat in response to a request made by the Committee in paragraph 182 of its report,[1] to provide information on the planning and execution of UNISPACE III.

(b) Other reports

33. The Subcommittee will also have before it a document entitled *Highlights in Space: Progress in Space Science, Technology and Applications, International Cooperation and Space Law, 1996* - reports submitted by COSPAR, IAF and the International Institute of Space Law and published as an integrated document (A/AC.105/654).

34. Additional reports may be submitted to the Subcommittee as available.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/51/20).

Annex

INDICATIVE SCHEDULE OF WORK*

Date	*Morning*	*Afternoon*
Monday, 17 February	Item 1 - Adoption of the agenda	Item 3 - General exchange of views
	Item 2 - Statement by the Chairman	Item 15 - Space systems for direct broadcasting and global information systems for space research[a]
	Item 3 - General exchange of views	
Tuesday, 18 February	Item 3 - General exchange of views	Item 5 - UNISPACE[b] (Working Group of the Whole on UNISPACE II; and Advisory Committee for UNISPACE III)
	Item 4 - United Nations Programme on Space Applications	Item 15 - Space systems for direct broadcasting and global information systems for space research[a]
Wednesday, 19 February	Item 4 - United Nations Programme on Space Applications	Item 4 - United Nations Programme on Space Applications
	Item 5 - UNISPACE[b] (Working Group of the Whole on UNISPACE II; and Advisory Committee for UNISPACE III)	Item 5 - UNISPACE[b] (Working Group of the Whole on UNISPACE II; and Advisory Committee for UNISPACE III)
Thursday, 20 February	Item 4 - United Nations Programme on Space Applications	Item 9 - Space transportation systems
	Item 5 - UNISPACE[b] (Working Group of the Whole on UNISPACE II; and Advisory Committee for UNISPACE III)	Item 10 - Geostationary orbit
Friday, 21 February	Item 11 - Life sciences	Fourth inter-sessional informal consultation on working methods of the Committee[c] (to be held among the members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space)
	Item 13 - Planetary exploration	
Monday, 24 February	Item 8 - Space debris	Item 8 - Space debris
		Item 7 - Nuclear power sources

*The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its thirty-eighth session, agreed that Member States would continue to be provided with an indicative schedule of work, which would be without prejudice to the actual timing of consideration of specific agenda items (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/50/20), para. 169 (b)).

Date	*Morning*	*Afternoon*
Tuesday, 25 February	Item 8 - Space debris Item 7 - Nuclear power sources	Item 5 - UNISPACE[b] (Working Group of the Whole on UNISPACE II; and Advisory Committee for UNISPACE III) Item 12 - Earth environment
Wednesday, 26 February	Item 6 - Remote sensing Item 12 - Earth environment	Item 5 - UNISPACE[b] (Working Group of the Whole on UNISPACE II; and Advisory Committee for UNISPACE III)
Thursday, 27 February	Item 14 - Astronomy Item 16 - Other matters	Item 16 - Other matters Item 17 - Report to the Committee
Friday, 28 February	Item 17 - Report to the Committee	Item 17 - Report to the Committee

[a]In accordance with General Assembly resolution 51/123, paragraph 18, a symposium on the theme for special attention at the thirty-fourth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, "Space systems for direct broadcasting and global information systems for space research", organized by COSPAR and IAF, will be held on 17 and 18 February, following the adjournment of the afternoon meeting of the Subcommittee.

[b]The Working Group of the Whole to Evaluate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, to be re-established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 51/123, paragraph 21, will meet during the period allocated for agenda items 4 and 5. Arrangements will be made for informal meetings of the Working Group of the Whole and the Advisory Committee, as required. During the time allocated for agenda items 4 and 5, agenda item 16 (a), concerning UNISPACE III, will also be considered by the Subcommittee as the Advisory Committee for UNISPACE III, in accordance with paragraph 29 of the General Assembly resolution. The Subcommittee will take up agenda items 5 and 16 (a) again on Wednesday, 26 February, to adopt the reports of the Working Group and the Advisory Committee.

[c]The Chairman of the Committee will hold the fourth inter-sessional informal consultation among the members of the Committee, in accordance with the agreement of the Committee at its thirty-ninth session (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/51/20, para. 203)), with the aim of making further progress on reaching a consensus decision on working methods of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies.